

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
January 8, 2007**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
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Western District of Kentucky**

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**MURRAY MAN CONVICTED IN FEDERAL COURT OF
DRUG TRAFFICKING AND FIREARM CHARGES**

-Drugs valued at \$7,000 and \$2,150 in cash seized-

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that on January 5, 2007, **MICHAEL YANDAL**, age 34, of Murray, Kentucky, was found guilty by a federal jury in United States District Court in Paducah, Kentucky, of possessing with intent to distribute crack cocaine and marijuana and possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

The jury's verdict of guilty was returned following a two-day trial before Thomas B. Russell, Judge, United States District Court.

The evidence at trial showed that on June 23, 2005, **Yandal** possessed 63.5 grams of crack-cocaine and approximately 8 ounces of marijuana with the intent to distribute the drugs and that he possessed a .40 caliber Glock handgun in furtherance of the drug trafficking crimes. The drugs had a street value of \$7,000.

The case began when detectives with the Tri-County Drug Task Force stopped **Yandal's** vehicle on June 23, 2005, near Lynnville in Graves County. When Detective Tye Jackson approached the vehicle to ask for license and registration, he smelled marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. A drug canine was deployed around the vehicle and alerted to the presence of drugs in the vehicle. **Yandal** eventually admitted he had drugs inside the vehicle and surrendered 63.5 grams

of cocaine and approximately 8 ounces of marijuana. Further search of **Yandal**'s person and vehicle revealed a loaded .40 caliber Glock handgun, 2 sets of digital scales, and \$2,150 in U.S. currency.

The maximum potential penalties are not less than fifteen years and up to life imprisonment, a \$4,500,000 fine, and at least 5 years supervised release.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Terry M. Cushing and was investigated by the Mayfield Police Department, the Graves County Sheriff's Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Yandal is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Russell on April 12, 2007, at 11:30 a.m. in Paducah, Kentucky.

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